

Introduced by: Cooper
Date: 02/04/20
Action: Adopted
Vote: 8 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent

**KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH
RESOLUTION 2020-014**

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE STATUS QUO LEVEL OF TOTAL CONSTANT
EXPLOITATION YIELD IN INTERNATIONAL PACIFIC HALIBUT COMMISSION
AREA 3A CHARTER SECTOR FOR 2020 SEASON**

WHEREAS, continued decreases in International Pacific Halibut Commission (“IPHC”) harvest levels for the IPHC Area 3A Charter sector have limited the weekly number of fishing days for the fleet, decreased daily bag limits, and negatively impacted the revenue and financial sustainability of the sector; and

WHEREAS, continued decreases in IPHC harvest levels for the IPHC Area 3A Charter sector have consequently had significant negative effects on tourism on the Kenai Peninsula, adversely impacting the tax revenue of the Kenai Peninsula Borough and the economic viability of all local businesses reliant on tourism; and

WHEREAS, proposed decreases in the IPHC Area 3A harvest levels for 2020 are severe, bringing overall charter sector removals to as low as 1.24 million pounds (“mlb”); and

WHEREAS, all proposed management options reflective of these low levels of removals or any below 1.66 mlb represent an added level of economic instability to the communities of the Kenai Peninsula, and changes in fleet management this dramatic are unacceptable without a formal Economic Impact Review from the IPHC, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, or any other management body; and

WHEREAS, management is currently based on a Harvest Rate of F46, and the Management Strategy Advisory Board (MSAB) has recommended a Harvest Rate of F42-43, which is more reflective of coast-wide levels of Maximum Sustainable Yield; and

WHEREAS, redistribution of harvest away from IPHC Area 3A and other Alaskan waters to IPHC Areas 2B and 2A is to the detriment of Kenai Peninsula Borough communities and halibut fishermen, and this contradicts acceptable management policy authorized by law in the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (2007) in SEC. 301. 98-623 (2), (3), (4), and 104-297 (8); and

WHEREAS, additionally, this redistribution contradicts acceptable management policy outlined in IPHC Management Strategy Evaluation: update (IPHC-2020-AM096-12) which states:

The Biological sustainability goal (conservation) reflects the long-term need for sufficient spawning biomass distributed across the geographical range of the stock...The general objectives 'keep the spawning biomass above a limit' and 'maintain the spawning biomass around a level that optimizes fishing activities' are prioritized over fishery stability and yield objectives.

In addition, the current adopted IPHC Harvest Strategy Policy (2019) published by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Organization (NOAA) provides the following:

2: Objectives and Key Principles:

The objective of the IPHC Harvest Strategy Policy is the sustainable and profitable use (optimum yield) of Pacific halibut through the implementation of a harvest strategy that maintains the stock at sustainable levels while maximizing economic returns.

To achieve this objective, the IPHC will implement a harvest strategy that pursues maximum economic yield (MEY) for the directed Pacific halibut fishery and seeks to:

- maintain Pacific halibut, on average, at a target (fixed or dynamic) female spawning biomass equal to the stock size required to produce maximum net economic returns on a spatial and temporal scale relevant to the fishery;
- maintain Pacific halibut, above a female spawning biomass limit where the risk to the stock regarded as unacceptable (SB), at least 90% of the time;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH:

SECTION 1. The assembly supports the IPHC adopting a Harvest Rate of F42-F43.


SECTION 2. The assembly supports the IPHC adopting a target removal of 1.66 million pounds for the 3A charter sector as a lowest possible allocation.

SECTION 3. The assembly supports that the IPHC request the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council conduct a formal Economic Impact Review regarding any Harvest Level which results in an allocation of less than 1.66 mlb for Area 3A's charter sector, the review to include both impacts on 3A Charter Fleets, the associated tourism economy, and tax revenue for the Kenai Peninsula Borough.

SECTION 4. The assembly support that the IPHC follow mandated MSAB Authority, IPHC Harvest Strategy Policy, and IPHC Management Strategy Evaluation to redistribute Total Constant Exploitation Yield back to IPHC Area 3A from Areas 2B and 2A.

SECTION 5. That this resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH THIS 4TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2020.

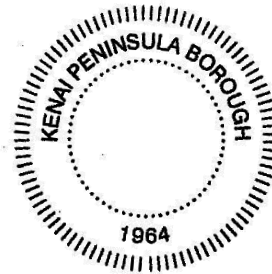


Kelly Cooper, Assembly President

ATTEST:



Johni Blankenship, MMC, Borough Clerk



Yes: Bjorkman, Blakeley, Carpenter, Cox, Hibbert, Johnson, Smalley, Cooper
No: None
Absent: Dunne